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FACTS ABOUT NATIVE PEOPLE

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FACTS ABOUT NATIVE PEOPLE

GENERAL

As of 1971, there were 295,215 status Indians in Canada
(Source: 1971 Census of Canada)

As of December 31, 1972, there were 264,680 status Indians in Canada according to Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development
(Source: The Canadian Indian: Statistics)

As of December 31 , 1972, there were 560 Indian Bands in Canada
(Source: The Canadian Indian: Statistics)

As of December 31, 1972, there were 2,285 Indian reserves and settlements in Canada
(Source: The Canadian Indian: Statistics)

Population has doubled in the last twenty-five years
(Source: The Canadian Indian: Statistics)

THE DEPT. OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AND NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT (D.I.A.N.D.)

- had expenditures of $355,306,117 in 1971, out of $13,182,536 in total federal government expenditures
(Source: Canada Yearbook 1972)

- had a budget of $503.0 millions of dollars for the fiscal year 1972/73
(Source: D.I.A.N.D. Annual Report 1972/73)

- had 8,886 full time employees across Canada as of December 31, 1973

- of the above figure, 5,146 are employed in the Indian and Eskimo Affairs Branch

- of the 5,146, 1,141 are of native descent

- 289 native people are attached to the Indian and Eskimo Affairs Branch on a casual basis

(Source for above staff statistics: D.I.A.N.D. Statistical Information Centre)

HEALTH

Accurate figures were not available to calculate a recent death rate for Indian children of pre-school age; however, it is still considerably higher than the national average.

.../2

HEALTH (cont'd)

"The 'life expectation' of the average Inuit infant in the Northwest Territories at birth appears to be just over 50 years. For the average Indian infant, it is just over 60 years. Mortality in infancy and early life is excessive. Should an Inuit infant survive the first two years of life, life expectancy increases by over 7 years. For Indians, the comparable increase is only just over 4 years. "Expectation" increases for the average Canadian infant by just over 1 year, in the second year of life.

(Source: D.I.A.N.D. Statistical Information Centre)

The average life span for Indians in Canada in 1968 was:
60.5 years for Indian males against
62.9 years national average (including Indians)

65.6 years for Indian women against
66.3 years national average (including Indians)

(Source: D.I.A.N.D. Statistical Information Centre and Canada Yearbook 1972)

Indians are the fastest growing group in Canada, despite higher infant mortality rate and shorter life expectancy. (Source: Presentation to the Senate Committee on Poverty, 1970)

EDUCATION

Of Indian students attending federal and provincial high schools grades 9 - 13 in the school year 1972/73

66% passed their year
9.2% failed their year
24.8% withdrew during the school year

(Source: D.I.A.N.D. Statistical Information Centre)

In the school year of 1972/73, there were 911 Indian students attending university. In the same period, there were 4,075 Indians registered in basic literacy programs.
(Source: D.I.A.N.D. Annual Report 1972/73)

.../3

EMPLOYMENT

In 1973, over 40% of the status Indian population were living on welfare.
(Source: D.I.A.N.D. Statistical Information Centre)

Figures for incomes of Indian families are not sufficiently accurate to state the 'X'% live below the National Poverty Line (which is $5,626 per year for a family of 5 or more people)
(Source: Information Canada)

HOUSING

As of December 31, 1973, out of a total of 31,354 homes on Indian reserves (averaging 6 people per home)

9,808 had sewage or septic tank facilities
25,793 had electricity (83%)
11,778 had running water
10,356 had indoor toilets
9,234 had indoor baths
8,903 had telephones

(Source: D.I.A.N.D. Statistical Information Centre)

LAW

As of March 14, 1974, the native prison population (race self-declared) of Canadian federal penitentiaries was:
6.6% Indian
1.5% Metis

Figures were not available for provincial correctional institutions; but, in some of the prairie provinces, native population can be as high as 30-35%.

(Source: Mr. Surprennent, Canadian Penitentiary Service, Ottawa)

TREATIES & ABORIGINAL RIGHTS

Approximately 60% of Canada is covered by Treaties. The other 40% is claimed under the concept of Aboriginal Rights by the Indians of Canada; as, there has never been any surrender of land. Principal areas never surrendered include the Maritimes, British Columbia, northern Quebec, and half of the N.W.T.

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